

**'I'm happy  
with squad'  
—Williams**

# Wanderers let it slip

DESPITE the poor results of the past few weeks, Wycombe manager Andy Williams expressed complete confidence in his squad of players after Saturday's draw at Sutton.

He said: "I do not think that it needs strengthening. At the moment we are not performing to our capabilities. We have the players to do well."

Mr Williams also said there was no significance in Howard Kennedy captaining the side at Sutton instead of Mick Holifield. He could not say who would lead the side out against Croydon at Loakes Park on Saturday.

Meanwhile the next game for Blues is their friendly at home to Oxford University on Thursday night, which will give Mr Williams the chance to test out some of his injured players.

## BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (Up to October 28)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	20	12	3	5	36	19	39
Croydon	17	10	4	3	30	15	34
L'Herhead	18	10	2	6	33	17	32
Dagenham	19	10	2	7	33	30	32
Hendon	19	8	6	5	28	27	30
Dulwich	14	8	5	1	26	9	29
Wycombe	19	8	5	6	28	19	29
Barking	15	8	4	3	37	25	28
Whittemore	17	8	3	6	26	18	27
Tooting	21	7	6	8	25	27	27
Hitchin	18	8	3	7	25	29	27
Slough	15	7	3	5	14	12	24
Woking	16	6	5	5	29	25	23
Boreham W	16	6	4	6	21	25	22
Oxford	17	5	3	9	19	36	18
Staines	18	4	5	9	24	34	17
Sutton	17	4	4	9	20	25	16
Hayes	18	3	7	8	20	31	16
Tilbury	17	4	4	9	23	39	16
Car'ltan	17	2	9	6	19	28	15
Kingston	14	2	4	8	12	25	10
Leyston	14	1	2	11	10	25	5

EVEN the encouragement of a 'gift' own goal in the second minute failed to provide the spark of inspiration for Wycombe Wanderers in their lifeless 1-1 draw in the Berger Isthmian League at Gander Green Lane on Saturday.

Wycombe led for 84 minutes of a dull, four encounter before Sutton deservedly snatched a point four minutes from time following a mistake by Peter Spittle.

So Wanderers dropped two more league points in what is turning out to be a depressing season. But they scarcely deserved victory with another poor display, although they showed a slight improvements on the 'disaster' against Carshalton

## Surprise

With Paul Birdseye fit, the Wycombe defence was at full strength, but it was as an attacking weapon that Birdseye proved so effective. His long throw-ins caused more problems to Sutton's defence than any other tactic.

## By MICHAEL KNOX Sutton 1, Wycombe Wands 1

Indeed, it was from one of Birdseye's 25-yard throws that Wycombe grabbed a surprise but highly welcome lead in the second minute. The first head it touched was that of Sutton defender John Rains who, much to his dismay, headed the ball over the line with goalkeeper Dave Collyer hopelessly out of position.

Birdseye's throws caused panic several more times in the first half, but apart from these Wycombe rarely looked like scoring. Sutton were not much better in a first half barren of everything but effort.

So Wanderers still led at half-time, but only after a remarkable piece of luck just before the break. Steve Long was robbed in mid-field by Tommy Sampson who sent a through ball to the lanky Norman Milne.

With the goal gaping in front of him, Milne struck the ball flush against the right hand post with Spittle grounded and hopelessly

beaten. The ball rebounded straight into the arms of the grateful Spittle as Terry Harris stormed in.

Blues therefore enjoyed two pieces of luck in the first half, but they were also unlucky when Rains appeared to push Steve Hardwick inside the Sutton penalty area. But the referee ignored this apparent offence.

## Problems

Wycombe were once again having great problems in mid-field, with John Priestley and Dave Allanson giving the ball away much too often.

However Mick Holifield, pushed up into the forward line, looked much happier and produced some of his exciting runs. And in the absence of the injured Stewart Atkins, his was the only spark of life in the front three.

One of the most promising mid-field players to have left Wycombe in the last two seasons is Gavin Fraser. It was his appearance as the

Sutton substitute for Bobby Southam that turned the tide in the home side's favour during the closing stages.

Terry Dibble, moved up into the attack with the ever dangerous Milne, seemed to find room on the right flank.

Sutton attacked strongly and therefore left gaps at the back. Holifield pounced through one of them in the 80th minute only to see his shot strike a post and rebound off Collyer's head for a corner.

But it was a corner, needlessly given away by Bobby Davies at the other end, that produced the only other goal of the match. Paul Jablonski swung the ball over, Spittle punched the ball weakly straight to the head of Dave Dyer who netted with a well-placed effort.

**SUTTON:** D. Collyer; K. Waldon, P. Jablonski, J. Rains, D. Dyer, T. Sampson, T. Dibble, L. Pritchard (capt), N. Milne, T. Harris, R. Southam (sub: G. Fraser, 60 mins).

**WYCOMBE:** P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, R. Davies, S. Hardwick, A. Phillips, D. Allanson, J. Priestley, M. Holifield, D. Evans, H. Kennedy, S. Long. Sub: G. Fowles (not used).

**Referee:** B. O'Leary (Dagenham).  
**Half-time** 0-1. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Rains o.g. (2 mins); Sutton — Dyer (86 mins).